



Vale School Governors' Association Cymdeithas Llywodraethwyr Ysgolion y Fro and Governor Support Unit **Newsletter**

Note from the Chair

I have just spent a busy week travelling around Wales attending a series of consultation events on governance for a large Wales-wide education charity. The weather has been good and Wales, even at the end of winter still looks glorious. We are very lucky to live here even if it takes hours and hours to get around it by car.

I hope those of you who attended the excellent presentation in the Civic Offices in Barry by Hugh Duggan from the Consortium will spread the word about how useful the termly briefings are. Hugh gave a very important insight into why we need a Pupil Deprivation Grant and how schools can use it wisely and imaginatively.

Children eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) on average do some 30% less well at all Key Stages in their education in South Central Wales than children who are not eligible. eFSM is a crude, but is the recognised measure for poverty. Basically, a child born in poverty in the Vale will end up with 30% fewer qualifications when they complete their schooling than a child

who is not eFSM. Even more shocking is that a Looked-After Child in this part of Wales is more likely to end up in prison than university – even in the leafy Vale.

We heard from Llantwit Major School about the huge improvements in Closing the Gap for eFSM pupils. It can be done and it can be done in the Vale. You need to make sure something is being done in your school. Ask some awkward questions at your next Governors Meeting.

These dreadful statistics make painful reading. They are not justifiable in a civilised country. Wales is a beautiful place. As Governors we have a duty to make sure all our young people get the chance at education in order to make the most of it.

Make a note to look out for next term's Consortium Briefings. You might learn something.

Dr Martin Price
Chair of VSGA and Vice-Chair of Governors, St Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic High School, Barry

Issue 35 Spring Term 2016

Special points of interest:

- AVAGO was formed in 1996 and re-launched in 2006 as Vale School Governors' Association (VSGA)
- The Management Committee is made up of 15 elected governors together with 2 elected parent governor representatives

VSGA was set up to:

- Promote best practice in governance in schools within the Vale of Glamorgan LEA
- To promote partnership amongst schools and between schools and the LEA
- To work with stakeholders to ensure adequate resources for schools within the LEA
- To represent the Association's views on issues relating to school governance and the management and resourcing of schools to relevant authorities and organisations

In association with the
Vale of Glamorgan Council's
Governor Support Unit

Contact Details:

John Sparks

Head of Governor Support

Tel: 01446 709106 Fax: 01446 701820

Email: JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Janine Hoare

Governor Support

Administrator

Tel: 01446 709107 Fax: 01446 701820

Email: JHoare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



VSGA has an email address that you may contact us on.
It's VSGA@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

alternatively you can contact VSGA by post at:

VSGA
Governor Support Unit
Learning & Development Dept.
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Provincial House, Kendrick Road
Barry CF62 8BF



**Parents' Ffederasiwn
Federation Rhieni**

Speaking up for carers and people with a learning disability

Do you know someone that deserves recognition? Why not nominate them for the Understanding Disability Awards 2016?

The Understanding Disability Awards are held annually to celebrate examples of good practice whereby schools, volunteers, groups or organisations have made the effort to ensure the successful inclusion of people with a learning disability into ordinary daily life. This might be a workplace that has made itself more accommodating to an individual by putting in place extra support from colleagues, a school that has included disabled children into mainstream classes, volunteers that put themselves out to involve people with a learning disability or any other example whereby someone has 'gone the extra mile'.

Last year, Hayley Rees of Cardiff was presented with the Teacher/Learning Support Assistant Award in the School/College Category. Hayley, a Specialist Teacher works with children across different schools in Cardiff, as well as volunteers at the Vale Parent/Child Homework Support Group in Rhoose, for 3 evenings a week. Hayley supports children with varying needs and disabilities at the Club. She has initiated a structured learning programme for the children, teaching in a unique, visual and sensory way. Children learn by touch and feel and older children mentor younger children.

The Children's Category Award was presented jointly to Rhws Primary School Community Club and Sasha Williams, both of Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan.

The Children of Rhws Primary School Community Club have developed links with the residents of the nearby Bay View Nursing Home for people with a learning disability. It started off, initially by some children from Year 6 singing Christmas Carols at Bay View. The relationship has grown from half-hourly visits every week, to now carrying out activities such as singing, dancing, puppet shows, arts and crafts and story-telling.

Sasha Williams, aged 12 has development and learning needs sustained as a result of a serious car accident in 2013. She has been attending the Vale Parent/Child Homework Support Club based in Rhoose. The Club helps children with a range of abilities/disabilities, aged from 4 to 13 to provide learning support in areas such as numeracy, literacy and study skills. Sasha was very withdrawn at first but has now become confident and mentors other children, helping them with their work.

Other award recipients were

Sainsbury's Store of the Derwen, Bridgend, (Employer Category), Pam Bailey of Cardiff (Volunteer Category) and a joint award to the Sherman INC Youth Theatre and Barry Town United Football Club (Local Group/Organisation Category).

Nominations are invited for this year's awards (see attached form for details). The Awards will be presented at a high profile event to be held in the Autumn in Cardiff.

The six categories of Awards are:

- **Employer**
- **Teacher /Learning Support Assistant (LSA) or School/College**
- **Volunteer**
- **Local Group or Organisation**
- **Professional**
- **Child or Group of Children/Young People**

If you feel that your school has promoted inclusion and made a difference to the life/lives of a disabled child or children, please send a nomination today. For further details or queries, please contact: Hasina Kaderbhai, tel: 029 2056 5917, email hasina@parentsfed.org.

The closing date for receipt of completed nomination forms is Friday, 20 May 2016.

Understanding Disability Group
C/o Cardiff & The Vale Parents Federation
Unit 14, Sbectrwm Community Centre
Bwlch Road, Fairwater, Cardiff CF5 3EF
Tel: 029 2056 5917

www.parentsfed.org admin@parentsfed.org

Termly Report of Governors who need to undertake mandatory training

What are the legal requirements?

You will be aware that from 1 September 2013 Welsh Government (WG) introduced *Regulations that require all newly appointed governors to undertake Induction and Data training and all re-appointed governors to undertake Data training and that these requirements must be met within a year of appointment or re-appointment. *The Government of Maintained Schools (Training Requirements for Governors) (Wales) Regulations 2013.

Mandatory training strategy going forward

From this Spring Term 2016 we will be circulating a termly report to all Headteachers, Chairs of and Clerks to governing bodies of their current governing body membership who still need to undertake the mandatory training.

How can governors fulfil the mandatory training requirements?

Governors can fulfil these mandatory training requirements either by attending training sessions or via elearning.

Details of the current training programme can be found [here](#)

If governors are unable to attend a training session or would prefer to do it via elearning at their leisure, this facility is available.

If this is their preference, they need to email us to that effect at governors@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk and we will send them the relevant login details by return.

How can gb's ensure their governors fulfil the mandatory training requirements?

All gb's should make "Governor training including mandatory training" a standing agenda item at their full gb meetings. **Induction and Data governor training sessions will be available every term.**

Why is it mandatory for governors to do training?

Governors play a key role in school improvement and to enable them to fulfil this role effectively they need to have undertaken the appropriate training.

As already stated, WG has introduced *Regulations that make governor training for Induction and Data mandatory so that has to be implemented.

What happens if governors don't fulfil the mandatory training requirements?

If governors don't complete the training within a year of their appointment or re-appointment they will be automatically suspended as a governor and will then have a period of 6 months to complete the training otherwise they will be disqualified as a governor.

Whose responsibility is it to suspend and disqualify governors for not fulfilling the mandatory training requirements?

The governing body. Suspension of governors is automatic when governors have passed their suspension date without fulfilling the mandatory training requirements. At this point the Chair of the gb should issue them with a letter informing them of that fact and that they have 6 months to fulfil the requirement(s) otherwise they will be disqualified as a governor.

To conclude, we fully respect the fact that governors are volunteers who give freely of their time which is why every opportunity has and is being given to avoid suspension and disqualification but we are all duty bound to implement WG's requirements in relation to mandatory training.

Should you have any queries regarding this email and its content please contact me by return email or on **01446 709106 (direct line).**

John Sparks
Head of Governor Support

Corporate Plan 2016-20

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has approved a new Corporate plan for 2016-20 which can be accessed at http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/achieving_our_vision/Corporate-Plan.aspx

The new plan sets out the Council's vision, values and priorities for the next four years and contains a new vision for the Vale of Glamorgan – "Strong Communities with a Bright Future". Our vision will help guide us in how we plan, deliver and review services. We've also taken the opportunity to refresh the values of the Council, our new values are:

■ Ambitious ■ Open ■ Together ■ Proud.

The Corporate Plan shows how the Council will contribute to the Well-Being Goals for Wales, introduced by the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (2015). We have set four Well-Being Outcomes which describe the outcomes we want to deliver for our citizens in the Vale of Glamorgan. Each outcome has two objectives and a series of actions that we'll take to deliver the outcome. The outcomes are:

■ An Inclusive & Safe Vale ■ An Environmentally Responsible & Prosperous Vale
■ As Aspirational & Culturally Vibrant Vale ■ An Active & Healthy Vale

If you have any queries regarding the new plan please contact Helen Moses the Council's Strategy and Partnership Manager at hmoses@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

New Role for Mike Glavin

As you will know Mike Glavin has been appointed to the role of Assistant Director with the Central South Consortium.

I am delighted that Mike has been appointed to this significant regional role and that his experience working with us in the Vale over the last eighteen months now complements his extensive and recent experience of headship. I know he was a very strong candidate for the post and was able to draw on his experience of working with Vale schools.

We will continue to benefit from his skills and experience in his new role.

We will of course miss Mike here in the Vale where he has played such a key role as Head of School Improvement and Inclusion. Mike achieved a great deal in a relatively short time. I am personally very grateful to him.

We are making arrangements for a carefully planned handover: Mike will start his regional role in June.

In the meantime I will be reviewing the management structure here in the Vale to reflect a number of key changes including Mike's new appointment. I look forward to discussing those plans with you.

Jennifer Hill

Director of Learning and Skills

Management Committee Membership 2014-16

The Management Committee is comprised of 15 elected governors plus the two Parent Governor Representatives (one each from the Primary and Secondary sectors).

No.	Title	Initial	Surname	School
1	Mr	N	Craggs	Gwenfo C/W Primary
2	Mrs	H	Drew	Cowbridge Comp
3	Cllr Mr	C	Elmore	Barry Comp & Holton Primary
4	Mrs	M	Gibbs	Llantwit Major Comp & Romilly Primary
5	Mrs	S	Hodges	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant & Ysgol Sant Baruc
5	Mrs	K	Kemp	Llancarfan Primary
7	Mrs	A	Males	Cogan Primary & St Cyres Comp
8	Mr	M	Mason	Llanilltud Fawr Prim & Ysgol Dewi Sant
9	Dr	M	Price	St Richard Gwyn R/C High
10	Mrs	C	Roach	Llangan Primary
11	Mr	C	Laity	Cadoxton Primary
12	Mr	D	Treharne	Llansannor C/W Prim & Ysgol Gwaun y Nant
13	Mrs	S	Williams	All Saints C/W Primary
14	Cllr Mr	M	Wilson	Victoria Primary
15	VACANCY			
PGR - Prim	Mr	L	Kellaway	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg
PGR - Sec	Dr	C	Brown	Llantwit Major Comprehensive

Any governors interested in becoming a member of the VSGA Management Committee should contact John Sparks by email at JSparks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk